

Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board

Meeting Summary

October 14, 2009
Islandwood, Bainbridge Island, WA

Strait of Juan de Fuca	Steve	Tharinger
Whidbey Basin	Gary	Rowe
Hood Canal	Teri	King
South Central Puget Sound	Theresa	Jennings
North Central Puget Sound	Steve	Bauer
South Puget Sound	Dan	Wrye
Business Interest	Sam	Anderson
Small Business	Bill	Dewey
Environmental Interest	Kathy	Fletcher
Cities	Jeanne	Burbidge
Counties	Dave	Somers
Ports	John	Calhoun
Tribal Government	David	Troutt
Tribal Government	Dave	Herrera
Legislative caucus	Christine	Rolfes
Federal Government	Barry	Thom
Federal Government	Ken	Berg
Federal Government	Tom	Eaton
Washington State Agencies - Designee	Josh	Baldi
Washington State Agencies - Designee	Lisa	Veneroso
Washington State Agencies - Designee	Naki	Stevens
Northwest Straits Commission	Ginny	Broadhurst

It is intended that this summary be used along with notebook materials provided for the meeting. A recording of this meeting is retained by Puget Sound Partnership as the formal record.

Action Items:

- Approval of July 29-30, 2009, Meeting Summary

Meeting Summary:

- Call to order
- Agency update
- ECB focus and roles
- Caucus, Council, and Action Area updates
- Public comment period
- Lunch presentation: Impacts on Climate Change on Coastal Ecosystems
- State of the Sound report and performance management
- 2010 legislative agenda and budget strategy
- Natural resource reform
- Watershed characterization
- Adjourn

CALL TO ORDER – Dave Somers, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m.

Leadership Council member Martha Kongsgaard provided an overview of the Islandwood facility.

Steve Bauer provided additional history of the facility and an overview and unique aspects of the North Central Puget Sound Action Area.

APPROVAL OF JULY 29-30, 2009 MEETING SUMMARY

Dave Herrera noted the need to clarify the wording concerning the Northwest Straits Commission's seat at the table in the meeting summary. His understanding was that this did not make the NW Straits Commission a member of the Board but just another voice at the table.

It was also pointed out that June 29 should be actually be July 29 on page 4.

There were questions on what a "seat at the table" versus a member of the Board actually means.

Dave Somers discussed the need to figure out a way to open the Board to hearing from the different groups without adding additional members. The Board needs a process to provide an invitation to all the interested groups to be able to sit at the table and talk with the Board.

The July 2009 meeting summary was **APPROVED** as amended.

ECB FOCUS AND ROLES – Chair Somers and Lynda Ransley (See meeting materials for details.)

The Board continued its discussion on its focus and roles from the July meeting using the handouts provided in the meeting packet and a memorandum provided by the State Caucus which summarized the July meeting discussion and provided suggestions on moving forward.

Chair Somers provided his thoughts on the role of the ECB and organization and reviewed the memorandum from the State Caucus.

Open for discussion:

- Need to have meeting agendas items that are key to the implementation of the Action Agenda
- The Leadership Council wants to get input from all the groups represented on the ECB but would like the group to reach consensus on path forward whenever possible
- Board members would like the agenda shaped around questions that need ECB input or late breaking information - not just briefings

- The Board discussed the ways to decide what issues to work on and how to proceed. They discussed the need to decide their own role and how to become effective – so far most members don't believe the ECB has made any change as a board and they need to do that to make the meetings useful – funding is possibly one role where the ECB could make a difference
- It was agreed that an Action Area representative should be included on the Executive Committee
- The Board members would like to get to a quarterly meeting schedule
- The Board agreed with the need for clear targets and a work plan for the ECB
- The Board would like time on the agendas for the members to share with the others what is happening in the different areas and bring issues that need discussion forward

Kathy Fletcher made a **MOTION** to adopt the recommendations from the State Caucus with refinements to include the role of the Executive Committee would be to structure the agendas and to include an Action Area representative on the Executive Committee. **SECONDED** by Sam Anderson.

The Board would like the Executive Committee to bring a refined mission and roles statement to the next meeting for discussion.

Motion **CARRIED**.

The Board discuss how if the Executive Committee develops a work plan then Board members could look out to what is coming up at future meetings and be better prepared for the discussions.

To get the Executive Committee in place in time to prepare for the January ECB meeting, the various caucuses need to decide who will be the representative on the Committee. Chair Somers asked the groups represented on the ECB to get the name of their representative to Tammy Owings as soon as possible so the initial meeting can be scheduled.

AGENCY UPDATE (See meeting materials for details.)

David Dicks provided an overview of staff work since the last meeting.

In addition to review of highlights on the written report, David:

- Reported that Michael Grayum and his wife had a baby girl over the weekend so he will be covering the legislative discussion on today's agenda in Michael's place,
- Congratulated Jay Manning for his new position as Governor's chief of staff and believes that will be positive for the Puget Sound, and
- Thanked John Calhoun for his work on the "green ports" initiative, which is moving forward.

CAUCUS, COUNCIL, AND ACTION AREA UPDATES

David Dicks reported that this agenda item is meant to meet the desire for time on the agenda for the various Action Areas and Caucuses to provide updates and voice concerns or issues that the Board could assist with as was recommended in the earlier roles discussion.

A recommendation was made for written updates to be provided prior to the meetings so that the Executive Committee and staff could highlight two or three issues or activities to present to the Board for a detailed discussion and input at the meeting.

South Puget Sound - Dan Wrye reported he is working with David Troutt on a process to regionalize the South Puget Sound Action Area.

South Central Puget Sound - Theresa Jennings provided an overview of the Action Area she represents and reported that the South Central Puget Sound Action Area did not have a formal regional group but since July she and Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz have been going around and talking to various groups. They have decided to develop a caucus group that includes all the different interests. They recently had the first meeting and will be developing a work plan. She stressed the need to get meeting information out in a timely manner to help the representatives get feedback from their various caucus groups before the meetings.

Federal Caucus - Tom Eaton provided this update informing the group that there are now 13 agencies included in the Federal Caucus and they meet every six weeks. The Caucus is currently working on a work plan focused on the Action Agenda. They have also met three times with the treaty tribes and sponsored Tribal Trust training for federal employees.

Ecology - Josh Baldi reported on the low impact development (LID) process that has been started including the recent decision that rainwater collection does not require a water right permit. This change helps address stormwater issues and still reserves the right for Ecology to make changes in the decision if this change causes problems.

Hood Canal - Teri King reported that the Hood Canal has been very busy over the summer including the groundbreaking for a new sewer system in Belfair. She also talked about an issue with fishermen along the Skokomish River and hopes to reach them with the Puget Sound Starts Here campaign.

Tribal Caucus - David Troutt discussed how the tribes have been involved in these issues for a long time and still fish aren't surviving in Puget Sound. The work being done in the South Sound is helping such as the opening the estuary in the Nisqually Delta, which is now complete. There will be a November 12 celebration of this event. David also noted the need to connect with communities in a sustainable way and reported that the Nisqually River Council will be unveiling their sustainable business plan. The first business to be involved in this work is Wilcox Farms.

Lisa Vereroso noted a big issue in the South Puget Sound Action Area is the Capital Lake Estuary. This will include removal of a dam and reconstruction of a bridge. This is a decision that is getting a lot of attention and she would like it to be one of the first topics the Executive Committee brings forward for the ECB to assist in advancing this cause – this would be a step forward in restoring the Puget Sound by 2020.

Dan Wrye would be supportive of bringing the Capital Lake issue forward along with the science and policy questions for the ECB to discuss – this is a divisive issue.

NATURAL RESOURCE REFORM – Chris Townsend (See meeting materials for details.)
Chris reviewed the options provided in the current Natural Resource Cabinet proposal. He asked the ECB members to provide comments on the proposal to the governor's office or Partnership staff. Comments are due by the end of October.

After the comment deadline the Natural Resource Cabinet will prepare the recommendation to present to the Governor. After the Governor decides on the direction she would like to take, she will provide to the Legislature for any legislative changes needed.

There was concern noted that the document is more focused on cutting size of government and not on natural resource protection. There was agreement that some of the geographic consolidation would make sense and that this is a very complex issue that will go through many revisions before the final outcomes are reached.

Chris will keep the ECB updated as this progresses.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was provided at this time.

LUNCH PRESENTATION

Dr. Jean Brennan provided a presentation on the impacts of climate change on coastal ecosystems during the lunch break.

STATE OF THE SOUND REPORT AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT –Jim

Cahill (See meeting materials for details.)

Jim Cahill provided an overview of the schedule to develop the performance management system and the State of the Sound Report.

The State of the Sound report is due November 1, 2009, and the performance management system in place by mid-2010.

ECB discussion:

- Would like rationale for selection behind the threat reduction objectives included in the final report
- Asked about a technical memo on how to get consistency – Jim reported the difficulties in getting consistency in place right now but that staff are looking at alignment – there is no clear definition in statute
- Asked for a short list of issues that could be expedited so that maybe the ECB could help put a focus on some of the critical path issues
- Need to link threat reductions and what the outcome is hypothesis (if, what, and why)

Dave Somers noted the consistency issue and critical path as two possible agenda items for the next ECB meeting.

2010 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND BUDGET STRATEGY – David Dicks (See meeting materials for details.)

David reviewed the conceptual list of possible agency legislation asking for feedback from the ECB members.

1. *Protection of nearshore habitat by requesting a moratorium on new shoreline hardening and overwater structures in the vicinity of feeder bluffs and spawning areas.*

The ECB agreed with the need for protection but had concern with going directly to a moratorium, they would prefer starting with a collaborative process. There are already laws in place for local moratoriums when needed. It was asked if we have a map of where the feeder bluffs and spawning beds are so we know what areas are limited? David reported that we know where most are and should be able to have a map by the legislative session.

There was general agreement that if existing regulations were enforced we would be in better shape and that there may be alternate routes to get to the desired outcome.

2. *Prevent the largest source of copper – brake pads – from continuing to contaminate streams, rivers, and coastal waters and negatively affect the food chains of entire ecosystems.*

The ECB generally likes this proposal but concerned that if this goes forward in Washington State alone it would not make much change. California is moving in this direction also. If the whole West Coast took this stand it would make an impact and get to the national level.

3. *Protect intact upland habitat and open-space by encouraging greater density in urban areas.*

The Environmental Caucus has concerns with this proposal. David will follow up with Kathy Fletcher on this proposal.

4. *Protect marine and estuary habitat by incorporating recommendations to coordinate and strengthen the multiple marine managed areas maintained by state and local governments into the Puget Sound Action Agenda.*

ECB members reported that there is a report being developed on this issue and additional work underway. This proposal may be premature since the recommendations aren't out yet. Agreed this is a good issue to work on but there is need to follow-up more.

5. *Effectively manage and improve water quality health by decreasing the loadings of pollutants before they enter Puget Sound's surface and groundwater by requiring low impact stormwater management techniques on new State development projects.*

This is a controversial issue with the environmental caucus. It was brought up that new standards for stormwater are being developed and suggestion to wait until the report comes out to see what recommendations are in it. There was also a suggestion to move this issue forward with a pilot project.

Oil Spill Issue

Jon Neal, Ecology, came to the meeting to discuss the oil spill issue and need for funding to fix the fees. Ecology is proposing legislation to raise the barrel tax from 5 cents to 7 cents, which would restore the oil spill program within Ecology.

Martha Kongsgaard noted that during the last legislative session the Oil Spill Advisory Council was inactivated and put under the Puget Sound Partnership with a small budget to assess the oil spill related programs.

There was general consensus by the ECB to support this proposal.

HB 1614 – Stormwater Bill

David reported that this bill was introduced last session and included a fee to fund the remediation of stormwater. The proposal passed the House last year but never made it to the Senate and the governor did not support this proposal so state agencies couldn't support. David will need to find out if the governor will feel comfortable with supporting the proposal this legislative session.

There is agreement that stormwater is an issue but concern with the fee being all on business' shoulders and discussed new taxes to fund stormwater that is supported by everyone including business.

The group thought the Partnership committed to putting on a stormwater summit to discuss this issue with all the parties. David reported that the agency has been meeting with a variety of stakeholders and still working through this. The stormwater summit will probably happen in spring; in the interim, discussions will occur off-line. Alternate solutions are welcome.

ECB provided general agreement with the need for a stormwater bill but do not agree on the process to put a fee on business only.

WATERSHED CHARACTERIZATION – Chris Townsend (See meeting materials for details.)

There was not enough time to present this issue but will plan to include on the next ECB meeting agenda.


2010 MEETING SCHEDULE

Dan Wrye **MOVED** to approve the proposed 2010 meeting schedule. Kathy Fletcher **SECONDED**. Board **APPROVED** the following schedule.

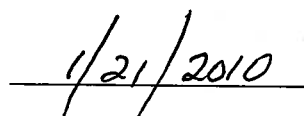
- January 21, 2010
- March 5, 2010
- May 6, 2010
- July 15, 2010
- September 10, 2010
- November 4, 2010

3:50 p.m. ADJOURN

Ecosystem Coordination Board Approval


Dave Somers, Chair

Date



Next Meeting: January 21, 2010
GA Conference Room
Olympia, Washington